IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a listing of the pending claims.

1. (Original): A method for protecting digital content, comprising:

   providing digital content organized by frames to a rendering unit; and

   altering a portion of the frames of the digital content within the rendering unit in response to tags in a data stream provided thereto, wherein the alterations of the digital content are not visually perceptible for real-time display but are visually perceptible in a recorded version thereof.

2. (Original): The method, according to claim 1, wherein the step of altering comprises randomly selecting frames for alteration.

3. (Original): The method, according to claim 1, wherein altering comprises removing at least one object from a frame.

4. (Original): The method, according to claim 1, wherein altering comprises relocating at least one object in a frame.

5. (Original): The method, according to claim 1, wherein altering comprises adding at least one object to a frame.

6. (Original): The method, according to claim 5, wherein the rendering unit is a graphics processing unit.

7. (Original): A device for protecting digital content, comprising:

   a rendering unit configured to detect tags in a data stream and to associate the detected tags with commands for altering image content.

8. (Original): The device, according to claim 7, wherein the rendering unit includes a table for storing symbols used when associating the detected tags with the commands.

9. (Original): The device, according to claim 8, wherein the rendering unit comprises memory for storing overlays for alteration of the image content.

10. (Original): The device, according to claim 8, wherein the rendering unit comprises a random number generator for randomly selecting when to apply the commands.

11. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the random number generator randomly selects when to apply overlays.

12. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the rendering unit comprises a decryptor.

13. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the rendering unit is configured to detect watermarks and to alter image frames in response to detected watermarks.

14. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the rendering unit detects watermarks and provides a graphical user interface in response to at least one detected watermark.

15. (Original): The device, according to claim 14, wherein the graphical user interface is provide after detecting a threshold number of watermarks.

16. (Original): The device, according to claim 15, wherein the graphical user interface provides a data entry block for entry of a key.

17. (Original): The device, according to claim 16, wherein the rendering unit is configured to down sample in response to a failure to enter an acceptable key.

18. (Original): The device, according to claim 16, wherein the rendering unit is configured to disable recording in response to a failure to enter an acceptable key.

19. (Original): The device, according to claim 16, wherein the rendering unit is configured to randomly alter the selected frames in response to a failure to enter an acceptable key.

20. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a digital video camera.

21. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a digital video disc recorder.

22. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a compact disc recorder.

23. (Original): The recording device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a hard disk drive recorder.

24. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a digital tape drive recorder.

25. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a floppy disk drive recorder.

26. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a solid state memory recorder.

27. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a computer.

28. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a monitor.

29. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a television.

30-33   Cancelled.